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The effects and influence following those unquestionably decisive events, the progress of the country, and the social and political condition from the one to the next are fully portrayed by the author, well preserving and presenting the continuous narrative of the state's history. There is much to commend in this method of writing history in detail or sections, as the result in each division is apt to be more specially accurate, and perhaps more exhaustive, thus affording ready and authentic material for more elaborate and comprehensive works in the same field. Miss Jones is the author of a work published some time before, entitled "Library Method Applied to State History." She is a graceful, cultured writer, evidently devoted with earnest enthusiasm to historical studies. Her "Decisive Dates," a volume of 276 pages, is illustrated with thirty portraits and views of noted objects; is finely printed, with embellished binding, and is altogether a highly creditable, and needed narration of the most important and eventful annals of our State.

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS; HIS LIFE, PUBLIC SERVICES, SPEECHES AND PATRIOTISM, BY
CLARK E. CARR LL. D.

A. C. McClurg & Co., Publishers, 1909

It would seem that the lofty prominence of Senator Douglas—so long and conspicuously a resplendent figure of popular admiration and adulation, as well as of criticism and censure; whose every act and opinion has been so repeatedly and universally discussed and scrutinized as to have become as familiar as household words; whose public career and private life have apparently exhausted the biographer's skill and resources to the point that there can be nothing new said or written about him. But there are some grand old stories, from the birth in the manger to the extinction of slavery in this country, that

can be retold indefinitely—to some people—with fresh interest. And there are some truly great characters, enshrined in public esteem and veneration, who can always be acceptably presented to the populace in different lights and from varying points of view.

Thus it is that Colonel Carr, the distinguished author, orator and politician, has produced another account of the Little Giant that can not fail to attract wide attention in literary circles. The animus of the book is stated in its "foreword" as follows: "The author of this work has been for several years considering making an attempt to place Senator Douglas before the public as he appeared when a conspicuous actor in public affairs a half century ago. While the author then was and still is a Republican in politics, identified with the party that was directly in antagonism to Senator Douglas and his later policies, he had become satisfied that but scant justice has been done to the Senator—that his nobility and purity of character, and sublime patriotism, and transcendent abilities have not been appreciated as they deserve to be."

The historic narrative proper, of 143 pages, graphically tells of the early life of Senator Douglas, of his arrival in Illinois in the spring of 1833, of his poverty, of his genius, his marvelous success, his meteoric public career, and his death. His opinions and position upon some of the grave matters of national legislation, in the solution of which he participated and was a weighty factor, during the quarter of a century of his public service, are dwelt upon with candid consideration. Very little space in the volume is specially devoted to Illinois history apart from allusions to the labors of Mr. Douglas in promoting the creation of the Illinois Central Railway, his agency in aiding to found the University of Chicago, and his part in the famed Douglas-Lincoln debates. The chapter on "Senator Douglas' Family" occupies a single page, and almost five pages are required to properly set

forth "The Mistake of Senator Douglas' Life"—his repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Says the author: "Brilliant as was his victory in the mighty struggle, who can not now see that the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, on the part of Senator Douglas, was a mistake?"

The chief interest of the book, and obviously the main object of the author in writing it, centers in the emphasizing of "Senator Douglas' Sublime Patriotism" as manifested in his zealous support of President Lincoln's efforts for preservation of the Union in the dark hour of its peril. The patriotism of Mr. Douglas admits of no doubt or question. Nor is it strange that he sprang to the aid of the newly elected Republican President when they were in full accord upon the policies proclaimed in Mr. Lincoln's inaugural message pledging his administration not to interfere with slavery in the states where it existed; to enforce the fugitive slave law, and sanction an amendment to the constitution providing that the government shall never interfere with slavery in the states.

The volume, comprising 293 pages, is fully indexed, and illustrated with many portraits. In the appendix of 139 pages is a selection of Senator Douglas' speeches on questions of the greatest political importance that ever agitated the people of this republic. The criticism of the book most likely to be advanced by its readers will be its brevity. The towering intellectual force, the rare genius, and great achievements of Senator Douglas can not be adequately depicted in the limits of 143 pages; yet, in that space Colonel Carr has well accomplished his purpose to present in true light "the nobility and purity of character, and sublime patriotism and transcendent abilities" of the illustrious statesman that he assumed "have not been appreciated as they deserve to be."